

Steel for trouble

Housing problems arise for SBC in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH (BP)—Housing may be a problem for the 1983 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to convention arrangements officials.

Part of the problem, according to Tim Hedquist, convention arrangements manager for the SBC Executive Committee, is that there simply are not enough hotel rooms to go around.

Bob Imperata, director of convention sales and services for the Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc., agreed: "The SBC is bigger than what we are accustomed to; we don't try to deal with conventions of this size on a regular basis."

Pittsburgh, which was selected as the site for the 1983 meeting at the 1976 meeting, does not meet current guidelines for host cities, which call for a city to have an arena capable of seating 16,000 persons, adequate exhibit space and 6,500 hotel rooms within walking distance. The size of the hall and the number of rooms are needed because the convention will have an estimated 15,000 messengers.

Hedquist said when the convention arrangements subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee visited Pittsburgh in 1978, the city-operated bureau committed 6,129 rooms, "the most ever committed by a bureau to the SBC."

By the time the housing bureau

Bill would prevent school religious activity denials

By Gerri Radiff

WASHINGTON (BP)—Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., has reintroduced legislation to prevent public school districts from discriminating against voluntary, student-initiated religious meetings by high school students.

The bill, S.815, forbids any public secondary school which receives federal financial assistance and allows students to meet during non-instructional periods to discriminate against meetings of students on the basis of the content of the speech at such meetings. It also allows students to take school officials to federal court if such meetings are not permitted.

"We hope to enact this bill to restore the First Amendment right of freedom of religion to students wherever those rights are being denied," Hatfield said.

The bill has the support of Democrats, Republicans, liberals, conservatives, and moderates, he said. Fourteen senators signed on as initial co-sponsors.

A provision of the bill specifies it is not meant to permit the government to influence the form or content of any prayer or religious activity or require student participation.

"From the beginning, the government was to be in a neutral position on the matter of church and state. When the state takes the position that you cannot exercise a religious right, but you can exercise every other kind of a right in the same context, that puts the state in an adversary role," he said.

In 1981, the Supreme Court ruled in *Widmar v. Vincent* that public universities may not deny student religious groups access to campus facilities for their meetings. "But lesser courts have upheld acts of discrimination by public school districts not allowing Bible study when other clubs are allowed," he said.

(Gerri Radiff writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.)

began accepting applications for reservations for the SBC, however, the number of available rooms had dwindled by nearly 2,000. "Two of the hotels simply didn't exist anymore," Hedquist said.

"The bureau opened with 4,130 rooms. They simply could not deliver what they had promised," he said.

Imperata said there have been problems "which could have happened in

(Continued on page 5)



Jail consultation

Participants at the recent Baptist jail ministry consultation at Parchman dialogue with Morris Thigpen, right, commissioner of the Department of Corrections. From left participants are Pat McLellan, Magee; E. C. Mann, Hattiesburg; and Clint Sims, Tupelo. About 50 people from 25 counties where Baptist jail ministries are already organized participated. John McBride, director of the Cooperative Ministries department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board said the purpose of the consultation was to establish ways for people out in the state to work with the prison chaplains; with Ovis Fairley, director of the Parchman Prison Ministries; and with Prison Fellowship, a ministry organized by former White House staffer Charles Colson. Participants were asked to serve as contact for prisoners' family assistance needs, and in helping returning inmates. (Richard Alford photo.)

Committee on Boards to report before SBC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention Committee On Boards, after a two-day executive session, announced it will release its report "at least 30 days" before the 1983 annual meeting in Pittsburgh, June 14-16.

Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, and chairman of the committee, told Baptist Press: "I would like to have it out by the first week in May."

The committee, made up of 52 persons, nominates persons to serve as trustees, directors or committee members of the 20 organizations supported through the Southern Baptist Convention.

The committee has been the focus of controversy in the denomination for the past several years, and has been featured in floor fights during the past two annual meetings. Much of the attention has been because of publicly stated aims of one faction in the denomination to gain control of the boards of the various agencies, filling them with persons of a particular theological viewpoint.

The release of the names in advance of the annual meeting became an issue in 1982 when then president Bailey E. Smith of De City, Okla., declined to reveal his appointments prior to the New Orleans meeting. Daniel Vestal of Midland, Texas, chairman of the committee on boards, followed suit, also declining to make the appointments public prior to the first day of the convention.

In making his announcement, Stan-

ley responded to a request by current president James T. Draper Jr. of Euless, Texas, to make the report available in advance.

Stanley, who by action of the committee was the official spokesman, told Baptist Press the committee on boards met in "executive session" partly because it was the center of so much attention.

"We knew there were so many questions about this committee and so many people looking at us, we felt it best that we have no observers...that we keep our discussion confidential," he said. "Because of the tremendous attention we were receiving, it was the general consensus that this was the way we should work."

Although Stanley had told Baptist Press prior to the meeting he preferred to have no observers, it was Bob Tenney, pastor of Burkemont Baptist

(Continued on page 4)

What's Inside

Editorials by Don McGregor, Page 4

The prayer phase of the Convention

MADD movie timing was good

Faces and Places by Anne McWilliams, Page 4

Please buy me a sandwich

Taking church "out of woods," Page 2

Caring for widows, Page 3

On foreign fields

Political neutrality sometimes difficult

By Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Debate over support of Israel and the political activities of the National and World Council of Churches is focusing attention again on Southern Baptists' longtime stand against involvement in politics overseas.

For the denomination's Foreign Mission Board and its 3,200 missionaries in 96 countries, the issue is crucial. Board officials have long said an apolitical stance toward their host governments is essential for carrying out their primary task—evangelism and church building.

In 1974, the Foreign Mission Board adopted a statement affirming its commitment to political neutrality, but also affirming a concern for the spiritual and humanitarian welfare of all people regardless of their political convictions. The statement asks missionaries to "refrain from political actions or statements that might endanger other missionaries or national Christians or jeopardize the witness for Christ in any part of the world."

While few Southern Baptists would disagree with the statement on first reading, they make exceptions on individual issues. Some Southern Baptists interpret the Bible as saying they must support Israel regardless of how it affects witness in Arab countries. One Baptist pastor has announced he will reintroduce a pro-Israel resolution tabled at last year's Southern Baptist Convention.

Others say missionaries working where people face injustice must speak out against

the parties inflicting it, even if they get booted from the country.

Most missionaries accept and appreciate the board's policy, but world political issues that concern U.S. Baptists are even closer to them. Those issues touch the people they live with.

"One of the most difficult things for new missionaries is to separate what is gospel—basic biblical principles—from cultural markings," says one missionary. "I do believe there is a place for social ministries and involvement in government. But as we go from America, we must be very, very careful. We are dealing crossculturally."

He has pinpointed the reason most often given by board officials for their apolitical stance: Missionaries are guests in the countries where they work. As guests, they have no right to tell their hosts how to run their homes.

Another missionary disagrees with that philosophy. The argument that missionaries shouldn't be interested in their host governments comes "close to being a 'cop-out,'" he says. "We don't use that argument about any other vital issue—the lost, the sick. The board's policy is necessary, but it is inconsistent with the rest of our behavior."

The policy can be interpreted, he says, to mean: "Be politically neutral when the choice is to say something upsetting; don't be if you can ingratiate yourself. To the extent this is implemented, it is not a spiritual but a pragmatic policy," he adds.

His stand suggests that of some other denominations. Roman Catholics have become identified, especially in Latin America, with a fight against poverty and injustice that often brings them into conflict with political parties. Some have paid for that stand with their lives.

The National Council of Churches, which represents a number of mainline Protestant churches, and the World Council of Churches have recently come under attack by Readers' Digest and CBS' *60 Minutes* for alleged support of revolutionary groups around the world.

Christian groups which take political stands charge that evangelical Christians have buried their heads in the sand and reduced their faith to an other worldly fantasy that ignores people's urgent needs.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks disagrees. "I don't believe that the missionaries I know are lacking in the willingness to be prophetic or take a stand," he says.

Missionaries should teach basic biblical principles on morality, ethics, human rights, the right of the individual, justice, and righteousness, he says. And they should encourage individual Baptists to apply those principles as they take part in their own national life.

Missionaries can cite numerous examples where overseas Baptists are doing just that. One missionary says the government in this country welcomes the churches as long as it sticks to talking about the Bible, faith, healing, tithing, and witnessing. But some pastors have been reported to the police for remarks in the pulpit that strayed from that agenda. Those

pastors were called in by the police to listen to tapes of their sermons and explain comments in them.

Parks also points out that the board's neutral political stance has facilitated, rather than hindered, ministry to people in need.

"I think it has enabled us to live above the political strife in a country and to continue to meet human needs on both sides of some very bitter divisions and has enabled us to continue to minister, even when transition has come and some groups have not been allowed to stay," he states.

Parks cites Uganda as an example. When the Tanzanian army chased former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin from the country, Southern Baptists were able to make arrangements for the first plane load of medical aid to enter Uganda. They could do so because two missionary couples had stayed in the country after Amin banned most churches. Staying within the letter of the law, they quietly operated a Bible correspondence school and assured the Ugandan people that they cared.

Political neutrality has enabled Southern Baptists to stay in many countries despite changing political climates, but it has not always guaranteed safety. Missionary Archie Dunaway, a Mississippian, was murdered during guerrilla warfare for Zimbabwe's independence two years before the war's end. Southern Baptists curtailed some ministries during the war, but they stayed there, carrying out spiritual, medical, and educational ministries that continue today.

The Foreign Mission Board has clearly drawn the line telling its missionaries not to campaign for or against particular political candidates or parties. But steering clear of all political implications is difficult.

No missionary can work in a foreign country unless the government there grants him visas and work permits. Southern Baptists' growing development ministries require close cooperation with governments. Southern Baptists provide medical and educational personnel to government institutions in many countries.

Although the Foreign Mission Board is increasing its ministries to man's body, it maintains that its primary ministry is still spiritual. Political change will not solve the world's problems.

Clark Scanlon, a board staffer who spent 27 years as a missionary in Latin America, says, "The problem is that any utopian society trips on the inherent evil within persons. Only Jesus Christ can make a new person. The making of a new person in Christ Jesus is the central message the church has to offer to a revolutionary society—or any other society."

In its policy against political involvement, the Foreign Mission Board "is expressing its commitment to established Southern Baptist principles," pointed out Parks. "The validity of this approach appears confirmed in the expanding opportunities to enter new countries, as well as the results seen where service is now being given."

(Mary Jane Welch, a Mississippian, is a news writer for the FMB.)

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June 14-16

'Unity of Spirit' is theme of 1983 SBC

PITTSBURGH (BP)—"Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace" will be the theme for the 1983 annual meeting of the 13.9 million member Southern Baptist Convention at the Pittsburgh Civic Arena June 14-16.

It will be the 126th annual session for the 138-year-old denomination, composed of more than 36,000 churches in all 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa.

"We wanted this to be the kind of convention which would bring us together in unity," said Bruce McIver, pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church of Dallas and chairman of the convention order of business committee. "We felt there are far more things which unify us than divide us."

He added: "The primary purpose of the committee was that the convention experience the theme. It was an underlying purpose all the way through. We have worked to deal fairly with all matters to be presented: business, reports, and, what we consider to be very important, the inspirational part of it."

The three-day program features business, election of officers, reports from the 20 agencies supported through the SBC, a laymen's emphasis, plus preaching, praying, and singing.

A special feature will be five 15-minute theme interpretations by Joel Gregory, professor of preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"We have given him no direction on this except to ask him to explore the theme and to present biblical messages," McIver said, adding the committee has placed the theme interpretations "in the heart of each session" rather than at the first "when people are still trying to find their seats."

Another special feature will be the Thursday night session. In New Orleans, last year, there was no Thursday evening session, but McIver said the committee decided to return to having the final session.

"We spent a lot of time praying and thinking about the closing session. We decided to have an affirmation of what the Lord can do through laypersons. In that session we will have Russell New-

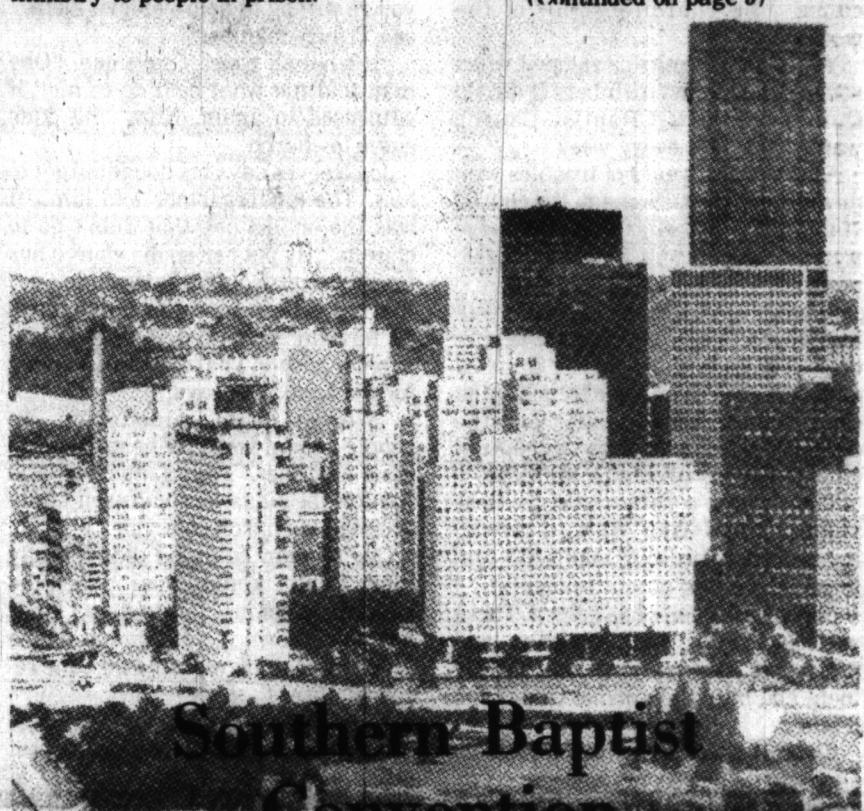
port, a layman from Springfield, Mo., singing; Fred Roach, a layman from Dallas giving a testimony, and Chuck (Charles) Colson will share out of his own heart what God can do through one layman," McIver said.

Colson, a former key staffer in the Nixon White House, spent time in prison for his part in the Watergate scandal. In prison, he was converted and after his release, established a ministry to people in prison.

McIver added that the Thursday evening session was planned also "with Pittsburgh area Baptists in mind. We don't have too many Baptists in the area, and we are hoping the service will minister to them...be a testimony and witness there."

He explained many of the other matters to come before the convention "are fixed. The primary thing the committee had to do was to provide the

(Continued on page 5)



Southern Baptist Convention
Pittsburgh Civic Arena

June 14-16, 1983

Theme: Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace (Ephesians 4:3)

Tuesday Morning, June 14

9:00—Music for Inspiration—Adult Choir, Far Hills Baptist Church, Dayton, OH

Wendell Boertje, director

9:30—Call to Order

Congregational Singing—Harold R. Price, music secretary, Baptist

Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, Harrisburg, PA

Prayer—Roy DeBrand, pastor, First Baptist Church, Americus, GA

9:40—Registration and Constitution of Convention

Committee on Order of Business—Bruce McIver, chairman, pastor, Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas, TX

9:50—Welcome—C. Edward Price, retired officer, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA

9:55—Response—Dan C. Stringer, executive secretary-treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, FL

10:00—Theme Interpretation—Joel Gregory, professor of preaching, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX

10:15—Announcement of Committee on Committees, Resolutions, and Tellers

10:20—Executive Committee (Part 1)—Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer, Nashville, TN

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Thursday, March 24, 1983



Trinity Pastor Ray Ware stands in the midst of a group of members, who, when asked what was making the church grow, offered a couple of hours worth of reasons, all pointing to a caring attitude toward those in need.

Taking the church "out of the woods"

By Tim Nicholas

On Wednesday nights, Ray Ware, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church at Quincy, can drive for a half hour picking up people for church without hitting a paved road.

Trinity, in eastern Monroe County, and nearly out of Mississippi, is a church that's out in the woods. Members laugh with understanding when visitors have trouble finding it. But, as one member put it, it's growing because "the church got out of the woods."

Years ago, Trinity developed when some of the Baptist members of the old Quincy Methodist-Baptist Church wanted services every week.

After several years of troubles with an independent movement, the church stabilized. In January of 1980 there were 45 enrolled in Sunday School; now there are 69.

Member Joe Reeves says the way they reach people is through the children. Vacation Bible School enrolled over 100 children. Aberdeen Baptist Church gave Trinity a bus and the church started using it and a couple of vans to pick up people for services.

The January Bible study's first night, led by Pastor Ware, a bivocational pastor, drew 17 adults, 17 pre-teens, and a half dozen teenagers.

Organizing choirs has helped. There are four: youth, adult, children, and pre-school. Their parents come to hear them and hear the word of God in the process.

An active softball team has encouraged participation by teenagers and helped in their interaction with adults.

One responsive point of contact has been the school bus which member Ann Price drives. "There were 10 of my school bus saved this year," she says.

The children on the van Wednesday night told Ware to stop at a certain house where the little girl promised that day in school to come to church. Ware, who had already met the family, extracted a promise from the parents they would come that weekend.

It was through children that Trinity began to meet some of the physical needs in the area which has high unemployment.

Ann Price says some of the children get on the bus in cold weather with no coat. Price asked the parent of one child if she could get the child a coat. The parent said okay and shortly the child was outfitted.

Instead of having yard sales, members opened up a good neighbor store in the area for Saturdays, in 1982. On Christmas members took groceries to several families they knew who had special needs.

One member stopped to pick up a

little girl for church who obviously was cold. She said there was no heat in the house. He took the family a load of firewood. "They started coming to church, and three adults were saved as a result," he says.

A couple of house fires in the community, one member and one non-member's homes, brought loads of household items and clothes to help them start over.

"You've got to let people know you're willing to help—to love them," says Trinity members.

"It's not all roses," says one. "One man told me what he'd do to me" if witnessed to again. Now, "his kids come to church."

Joe Reeves says his daughter got to him. The kindergartner told him, "I was the onliest one that didn't go to church." He put her on the church bus for choir and decided that wouldn't do; that he needed to go with his daughter. "I haven't regretted it. We're just happier people. That comes with living for the Lord," he says.

"We've been ministering to people—some would not be welcome in other churches," says a member. And some of the kids who come aren't fully oriented to church behavior.

One woman said she didn't really think Trinity would grow. "When the children came in . . . they didn't know how to sit down . . . It amazed us the Lord would think we could take the responsibility."

Ware, who works during the week in Tupelo as a letter carrier for the post office, began as pastor of Trinity at Easter of 1981. He is chaplain of the Tupelo post office and chaplain of the Mississippi Rural Letter Carriers Association and the South Central States Rural Letter Carriers Conference.

His wife, Charlene, teaches at Lakeview Christian School in Tupelo. Ware says that while out visiting in the community, he convinced a man to let his children ride the bus to church. The man made a recommitment of his life to Christ and commented to Ware, "If I could read the Bible, I'd be the happiest man on earth." Charlene Ware taught the man reading fundamentals and he's attending services now.

In the little knot of people telling the story of the church is a woman who testifies that in the past year three sons and her husband were saved and baptized at Trinity. She said her husband had never been in a church before. Asked how the man was reached, she pointed to one of the members in the group. "Because people like him took an interest in his soul."

In 1982 the little church had 28 additions by baptism and seven by letter. Ware adds, "And there's a whole lot we haven't reached yet."

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"We've been ministering to people—some would not be welcome in other churches," says a member. And some of the kids who come aren't fully oriented to church behavior.

One woman said she didn't really think Trinity would grow. "When the children came in . . . they didn't know how to sit down . . . It amazed us the Lord would think we could take the responsibility."

Ware, who works during the week in Tupelo as a letter carrier for the post office, began as pastor of Trinity at Easter of 1981. He is chaplain of the Tupelo post office and chaplain of the Mississippi Rural Letter Carriers Association and the South Central States Rural Letter Carriers Conference.

His wife, Charlene, teaches at Lakeview Christian School in Tupelo. Ware says that while out visiting in the community, he convinced a man to let his children ride the bus to church. The man made a recommitment of his life to Christ and commented to Ware, "If I could read the Bible, I'd be the happiest man on earth." Charlene Ware taught the man reading fundamentals and he's attending services now.

In the little knot of people telling the story of the church is a woman who testifies that in the past year three sons and her husband were saved and baptized at Trinity. She said her husband had never been in a church before. Asked how the man was reached, she pointed to one of the members in the group. "Because people like him took an interest in his soul."

In 1982 the little church had 28 additions by baptism and seven by letter. Ware adds, "And there's a whole lot we haven't reached yet."

Instead of having yard sales, members opened up a good neighbor store in the area for Saturdays, in 1982. On Christmas members took groceries to several families they knew who had special needs.

One member stopped to pick up a

little girl for church who obviously was cold. She said there was no heat in the house. He took the family a load of firewood. "They started coming to church, and three adults were saved as a result," he says.

A couple of house fires in the community, one member and one non-member's homes, brought loads of household items and clothes to help them start over.

"You've got to let people know you're willing to help—to love them," says Trinity members.

"It's not all roses," says one. "One man told me what he'd do to me" if witnessed to again. Now, "his kids come to church."

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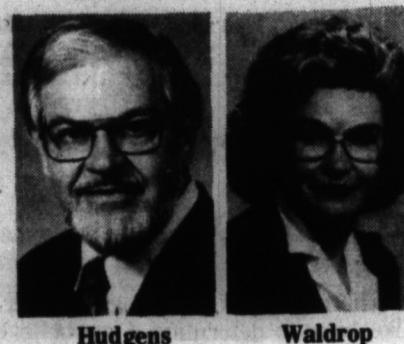
BJC targets tax credits, 'stripping'

By Stan Hasteby

WASHINGTON (BP)—Statements opposing tuition tax credits and challenging proposals to limit the jurisdiction of federal courts were adopted at the annual meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs March 7-8.

The 45-member group, representing eight U.S. Baptist bodies with a combined membership of some 27 million, also elected new officers, including a Southern Baptist, R. G. Puckett, as chairperson. Puckett is editor of the *Biblical Recorder*, weekly news publication of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Updating a long held position, the BJC restated its opposition to tuition



Hudgens Waldrop
Preschool-children's seminars set

The 1983 Preschool-Children's Seminars are set for eight Mississippi cities, April 18-29.

Featured speaker for the first four seminars will be Sybil Waldrop, supervisor, preschool curriculum section, at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Featured in the last four sessions will be Billy Hudgens, preschool-children's work consultant in the Sunday School department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Each seminar will begin at 4 p.m. and conclude at 9 p.m., including a banquet. Dates and sites are April 18 at Broadmoor Church, Jackson; April 19 at First Church, McComb; April 21 at First Church, Cleveland; April 22 at First Church, Batesville.

April 25 at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; April 26 at First Church, Starkville; April 28 at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg; and April 29 at First Church, Gulfport.

Reservations are required for these seminars and cost \$5 per person. For reservations, write Billy Hudgens, Sunday School department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Conferences for preschool workers include Bible story time at church, games, group time, extended session, and home living area. Children's conferences will be children's Bible study, children and conversion, children and crises, Bible learning projects, and conducting large groups. For both age groups sessions will be on music, art, and curriculum development.

In other actions, the BJC instructed its staff to begin planning for special observances in 1987 and 1991 of the 200th anniversary of the adoption, respectively, of the Constitution and Bill of Rights and voted to become a sponsoring organization of the Baptist Prayer Conference, slated for 1984 in Columbus, Ohio. It is believed to be the first such convocation of Baptists across denominational lines for a conference with an emphasis on prayer.

By Stan Hasteby

WASHINGTON (BP)—Ending a six-year controversy between a California church which operated a religious television station and the Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the FCC's refusal to renew the church's TV license.

The dispute began in 1977, when the FCC demanded access to financial records and videotapes from Faith Center, Inc., of San Bernardino, Calif., and its station, KHOF-TV. The demands were made because the federal agency had received complaints the church's pastor, W. Eugene Scott, had raised funds over the air which were not used for their stated purposes.

Responding to the complaints, the FCC began an "informal investigation" to determine if the federal law prohibiting fraudulent solicitation over the airwaves had been violated. It requested videotapes and financial records, including accounts receivable ledgers, lists of solicitations and monies received, records of money spent on each project for which funds were solicited, lists of those making contributions and pledges, and a list of Scott's own pledges and contributions to the same causes.

After Scott refused over a three-year period to turn over the requested documents, the FCC dismissed the station's license renewal application. That action was subsequently affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

In its failed request that the Supreme Court review the lower actions, Faith Center and Scott argued that

Paul Moak is president of MBMC trustees

Paul J. Moak is president of the board of trustees of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center for the calendar year 1983. Moak has been a member of the board for 12 years and has previously served as vice-president and chairman of the executive committee. He succeeds Zach Hederman of Jackson, who has served the board for 36 years.

Other officers include Woodrow W. Bailey, Jackson, vice president; Alvis T. Hunt, Jackson, secretary; and J. W. Underwood, Jackson, chairman of the executive committee.

Other members include Julian Clark, Jackson; Sidney D. Davis, Mendenhall; Joel Haire, Crystal Springs; D. Lynn Harkness, Jackson; W. Henry Holman, Jr., Jackson; Vernon May, Madison; W. P. McMullan, Jr., Jackson; Richard L. Miller, Jackson; Bob W. Pittman, Jackson; and Ralph E. Rives, Jackson.

The only new member is Tom Hudson, Jackson.

MBMC's board of trustees is elected annually by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

An afterthought: It probably is better for Social Security recipients to have their checks deposited directly to the bank.

Address inquiries to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Inquiries are welcomed.



Mississippi Baptist Activities

Mar. 28 "How To Get People To Come To Church Training"; 7:30 p.m. FBC, Ripley/FBC, Verona/Gregory Chapel, Monroe Assn./Pittsboro BC, Pittsboro/FBC, Nesbit/FBC, Marks/Parkway BC, Houston/Hillcrest BC, New Albany (CT) Adult Curriculum Workshop; 7:30 p.m.; FBC, Moss Point/Central BC, McComb/W. Laurel BC, Laurel (CT)

Youth Curriculum Workshop; 7:30 p.m.; Immanuel BC, Vicksburg/Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian/Simpson Assn. Office, Mendenhall (CT)

Preschool-Children Curriculum Workshop; 7:30 p.m.; FBC, Winona/FBC, Columbus/FBC, Cleveland (CT)

Vacation Bible School Clinic; FBC, Biloxi; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)

Mar. 29 "How To Get People To Come To Church Training"; 7:30 p.m. FBC, Pontotoc/Thrasher BC, Thrasher/Wheeler Grove BC, Alcorn Assn./Como BC, Como/Riverside BC, Clarksdale/Trinity BC, Fulton/Tishomingo BC, Tishomingo (CT)

Adult Curriculum Workshop; 7:30 p.m.; FBC, Gulfport/Liberty BC, Liberty/38th Avenue BC, Hattiesburg (CT)

Youth Curriculum Workshop; 7:30 p.m.; Alta Woods BC, Jackson/Clarke Assn. Office, Quitman/Immanuel BC, Natchez (CT)

Preschool-Children Curriculum Workshop; 7:30 p.m.; FBC, Greenville/N. Greenwood BC, Greenwood/Ackerman BC, Ackerman (CT)

Vacation Bible School Clinic; FBC, Hattiesburg; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)

Mar. 30 Vacation Bible School Clinic; FBC, Natchez; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)

Mar. 31 Adult Curriculum Workshop; 7:30 p.m.; Foxworth BC, Foxworth/Easthaven BC, Brookhaven/Pearl River Assn. Office, Carriere (CT)

Youth Curriculum Workshop; 7:30 p.m.; FBC, Yazoo City/FBC, Philadelphia/Forest BC, Forest (CT)

Vacation Bible School Clinic; Colonial Heights BC, Jackson; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)

April 1-2 Youth Missions Conference; Gulfshore Assembly, Pass Christian; 3 p.m., 1st-3 p.m., 2nd (BRO & WMU)

Cynthia Clawson
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Editorials

The prayer phase of the convention

The most important phase of the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh June 14 to 16 may take place before it begins.

That is the prayer operation that has been set up by First Vice-President John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Church in Shreveport, La. There are coordinators in each state; and Earl Craig, pastor of First Church, Jackson, has been selected as the coordinator for Mississippi.

There will be structured prayer times throughout the convention, but Sullivan is suggesting that a great deal of effort be spent in prayer before the convention begins. He wants Southern Baptists to be praying for the pre-convention meetings. He is urging us to be specifically in prayer for the local church revivals that are to be held in the Pittsburgh area before the convention. He also hopes Southern Baptists

will be praying for the "Pastors' Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union convention.

Others on Sullivan's prayer list include the officials who will be looking after the technical details of the gathering as well as the officers of the convention, who will be taking care of the official matters.

Sullivan is suggesting that we pray for the convention preacher, for the election of officers, for the resolutions committee, the credentials committee, the committee on committees, all of the special committees, and for the committee on boards.

Other items of prayer are the business sessions, the presentation of the budget, and the evangelists' conference. Finally there is an appeal for prayer for the prayer coordinators, for a day of prayer, for Christian courtesy during debates, and for continued

progress of Bold Mission Thrust.

That's quite a list, and those items are only the prayer needs before the convention begins. During the convention there will be continual sessions of prayer at the convention center while the convention is in session, and other prayer sessions will be under way at the headquarters hotel—the William Penn.

Mississippi's prayer assignments will be at the hotel. They are from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on June 14 and from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. on June 16.

It is possible that there is no more important meeting held at any time than the Southern Baptist Convention. It is the focal point of all of our missions efforts, and missions is the reason for having a convention. It is the Great Commission in action. Surely the importance of such a gathering cannot be over emphasized.

Thursday, March 24, 1983

by don mcgregor

Therefore, it is deserving of prayer. We have to determine if we believe that prayer is effective or if it does no good. If we come to the latter conclusion, then there is no need to pray at all about anything. If, however, we believe in the effectiveness of prayer, then we will be horribly negligent if we do not make the Southern Baptist Convention a matter of intense prayer. Not only would we be negligent, we would be sinful.

We shouldn't be surprised, but we will be, at what will be the circumstances at the convention in Pittsburgh if we will adhere to the prayer suggestions outlined and do it with fervency and effectiveness.

We all will come home with a song in our hearts and with missions on our minds.

A day of prayer for the Southern Baptist Convention suggested for Mississippi Baptist churches is May 29.

MADD movie timing was good

It was appropriate timing for a national television network to run a two-hour movie recently based on the true story of the beginning of MADD—Mothers Against Drunk Drivers. Those who watched the movie remember that the nationwide organization was begun by Candy Lightner of Fair Oaks, Calif., in May of 1981. Fair Oaks is near Sacramento.

The timing on the movie was appropriate because at the time the Mississippi Legislature was struggling with what to do about drunk driving laws in our state. Also during that same week the Legislature of Ohio passed the stiffest drunk driving laws in the nation. Prior to the Ohio action the commendable distinction of having the stiffest drunk driving laws belonged to California, largely if not completely due to the efforts of Mrs. Lightner.

At this writing the Mississippi effort at putting teeth into a drunk driving law is being debated. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have passed drunk driving laws, but they are different. Actually, the Senate bill is an amended version of the House bill. But because the two are different and the House will not accept the Senate's amendment, the bill has to go through a conference session. It could die there. April 1 is the deadline for the bill to be passed in both houses, or it dies.

The Baptist Record has tried to keep this issue before its readers all along. We hope this effort has resulted in readers being in touch with their legislators. The bill has been in the hands of the Legislature since the beginning of the session. It is House Bill 182, and that number means it was one of the first bills filed. If it dies, the Legisla-

ture will have only itself to blame. If it dies, the Legislature will have to face the fact that anyone who is killed as the result of a driver being drunk will, at least to some degree, be the result of legislative inaction.

Cari Lightner was killed by such a driver on May 3, 1980, at 13 years of age. She was walking in a bicycle lane near her home in Fair Oaks when a car in which a drunk was riding behind the steering wheel swerved off the road and hit her from behind. The car did not stop, and four days later the driver was arrested. Investigation proved that he had been drunk. His record showed three other drunk driving charges and two convictions. On the third arrest he was allowed to plea bargain, and the charge was reduced from drunk driving to a reckless accident.

In spite of such conditions, he was allowed to plea *guilty* once again in the case of the death of Cari Lightner, and he never went to prison. The charge was reduced to vehicular manslaughter, and on Nov. 25, 1980, he was sentenced to two years in prison. Instead of going to prison, however, he went first to a work camp and then to a halfway house. He was released on Sept. 7, 1981, and was eligible to have his driver's license reinstated. As a result of his first three arrests for drunk driving he had spent 48 hours in jail. Two days before he hit Cari Lightner he had been arrested again on a drunk driving, hit-and-run charge and was out on bail with a legal driver's license.

This is an instance that took place in California, at least 2,000 miles from here. It goes on in Mississippi also. Having laws regarding a blood alcohol content of .10 for presumed intoxica-

tion means nothing unless there is power to enforce the law and make it meaningful. Regardless of the blood alcohol content law, people will be driving drunk if they can get away with it. And when they are drunk they are going to hit others.

And kill them. That is premeditated murder, for the drinker does not have to drink, and he is fully aware of the possible consequences if he does.

There is at least one MADD chapter in Mississippi. It is in Poplarville, where teenagers have been killed and injured by drinking drivers. Readers may remember reading material on this in the issue of Feb. 24 and a letter from the vice-president in the issue of March 3. The vice-president of the Poplarville chapter is Mrs. Ann Stringer, Pearl River County MADD chapter, 104 West Oak, Poplarville, Miss. 39470.

The folks in Poplarville will help anyone who wants to start a new chapter. The national headquarters is MADD, 5350 Primrose, Suite 146, Fair Oaks, Calif. 95628.

We hope the Legislature will adopt a tough drunk driving bill. If they don't, it is time for Mississippians to get MADD. If they do, this organization will serve in helping keep the spotlight of public opinion on the tragedy of drunk drivers.

MADD's goals are to reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by drunk drivers through education, community awareness, advocacy, and research and to provide emotional support and services to victims of drunk drivers.

The 1983 objectives are to promote the establishment of a legal drinking

age of 21 in all states, to develop "model" drunk driving legislation, to develop and distribute to all chapters a model victim assistance program, to establish chapters in all states and conduct three regional workshops, to develop and distribute educational material, to produce a 60-minute documentary film on teenage drunk driving for national television, and to produce a 20-minute documentary film on drunk driving to be used by chapters in school and assembly presentations.

The bill, by the way, which was passed in the House and amended by the Senate was submitted by Dennis Doliar, a Baptist. There are many responsible members of the Legislature trying to get things done. They need our help and that of their colleagues. At last report the House, though not accepting the Senate amendment automatically, had voted to confer on the matter and had appointed a conference committee. The Senate thus far has not appointed a conference committee. There must be a conference report filed by March 28 and April 1 is the deadline for adoption.

The House conference committee members are John Hampton Stennis; Fred Banks, who cosponsored the bill with Dollar; and Jerry Horton, a Baptist.

In the same vein, another bill that is of interest to Baptists is House Bill #463, the pornography bill. It passed the House unanimously, but it also was amended by the Senate. Thus it also has to go to a conference committee. The Senate conferees are Martin Smith, Bill Alexander, and Con Maloney. In the House they are Stone Barefield, Betty Jane Long, and Horace Buckley.

All the above may be done in any church by any pastor without any extra meetings, any extra expense or any outside speakers. The only cost is study, planning, prayer, and energy.

Pastors are called upon frequently for crisis intervention and most ministers, being human, help themselves at one time or another. The Church Minister Relations department will make a confidential recommendation for competent counselors in your area when such help is needed or one needs to refer a church family member.

One current problem that is on the increase in families is family money management. Christian Family Money Management brochures may be secured from John Alexander, Ste-

wardship Department.

Many churches are holding Family Life Enrichment revivals, Marriage Enrichment Retreats, and Parenting Workshops. Format and leadership suggestions are available.

Marriage Enrichment—Growing in Oneness is the 1984 theme, and Dr. Jones is arranging for both a spring and fall Marriage Enrichment workshop in addition to a strong emphasis in the Gulfshore Family Week program. Some associations will also have workshops in Marriage Enrichment during 1984. Pastors and staff members will have opportunities for such leadership training while other couples will participate in making their good marriages better.

Clark Hensley is the retired executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

Brewer's and Distiller's Stranglehold

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1983

Campus Binge: Colleges Combat Alcohol Abuse, With Little Effect

Across the country, college and university officials are becoming increasingly concerned about alcohol abuse among students. Believing it is a far more dangerous and widespread problem than illegal drug use, more than half the nation's colleges in recent years have begun efforts to combat excessive drinking by students.

Yet so far their efforts have produced little more than a heightened sense of frustration among college officials. Instead of declining, student drinking problems at many campuses continue to increase. While administrators also see a rise in alcohol-related violence and vandalism.

Nevertheless, the results have sounded an alarm at many schools that either had ignored the problem or weren't aware it is as serious as the surveys show. One recent poll of students at 80 colleges, for instance, found that as many as 17% consider themselves heavy drinkers. More than two-thirds of the undergraduates also admitted to driving while intoxicated, and a third said they had passed class because of excessive drinking.

As many schools are finding out, however, that is far easier to say than to do something about. More than 70% of the colleges and universities in the country now offer some form of alcohol education program—compared with just a handful a few years ago. Few believe they have made any substantial progress, encouraging greater moderation among students.

More freshmen also are arriving on campus with drinking patterns already established, officials say. And there has been a sharp increase in the number of women who drink, as well.

Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

"Please buy me a sandwich"

I sometimes read Eutychus in Christianity Today. Like him, I'd like to claim that I'm "burned out," but it might be nearer the truth to say that I'm "pooped out."

For sure, "life is so full of a number of things that we should all be as happy as kings." There's so much in the world to see and do and hear and taste and touch and smell that I just go haywire—I want to experience them all. Common sense says there has to be a stopping point—but then I don't claim to have much common sense.

In January I made these resolutions: "I will write the book this year that I have already outlined in my head. I will ride my new bicycle two miles a day. I will learn to be a better cook." Then pronto, I began adding furiously to my "things to do" so I could avoid keeping the resolutions.

I decided I'd better finish writing that state missions program for WMU. I found a Spanish class listed in MC's PACE bulletin and enrolled for the five-Monday-night adventure, knowing full well that I'm more pooped out on Monday nights than any other time. (Jean Glaze spoke Spanish 25 years in Argentina and she's a great teacher, but those Monday nights keep coming around before I get my vocabulary list studied.)

Spring fever hit me and I hired a man to landscape my back yard. On St. Patrick's Day, I went to Gulfport to interview a psychologist; I wore green, but I was depressed at having to miss Bernard's "Happy Birthday" party at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

I'll tell anyone who'll listen about Mississippi's partnership with the Rio de la Plata and about my visit to Argentina; my Sunday School class has promised to listen at next class meeting. Naturally I couldn't miss the WMU convention.

I've enrolled in a MasterLife class Thursday mornings in the Baptist Building, taught by Tom Hudson, Oak Forest pastor. I don't begrudge a minute of this! It's the best thing that's happened to me in a long time. Often—too often—Satan says, "You can't memorize all that scripture."

Outside he was still waiting. And when I got there four or five young black students were talking to him about Jesus. I soon realized that they were some of the 1500 National Baptist students in Jackson for their Baptist Student Union retreat at the Ramada Inn Coliseum and Trade Mart building.

"Are you really hungry?" I asked the man. He said yes. I gave him the hamburger and the tract and he read aloud to me the words on the cover. I told him, "This little paper will tell you about the Bread of Life. That Bread is

of far more value than this little sandwich." As I walked on back toward the office, he and the group of young people followed. He was going to eat his sandwich in the park and they were still talking with him about Jesus and expressing their concern for him.

(Continued from page 1)

Church of Morganton, N.C., who officially requested the "executive session" for the committee.

Teneray, who also is a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, said his request was based partly on the need for confidentiality because of the discussion of "personnel matters," but also because of biased news reporting. Teneray publishes a 4,000-circulation newspaper, Baptist United News, which he says was started because he felt Baptists were not getting the con-

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Stanley told Baptist Press the decision to go into executive session was "100 percent... unanimous."

Following the session, Stanley also said the "vast majority" of persons eligible for reappointment to second terms were reappointed. The "bumping" of persons who were eligible for second terms was the cause of a floor fight at the 1981 annual meeting in Los Angeles.

(Martin is BP news editor.)

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to report before SBC

(Continued from page 1)

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Letters to the Editor

Baptists in Jamaica celebrate 200 years

By Bill Webb

KINGSTON, Jamaica (BP)—Ten thousand Jamaican Baptists poured into Kingston's National Arena Feb. 27 to end their 133rd annual assembly and celebrate 200 years of Baptist witness in their Caribbean island nation.

Today, 273 churches with some 38,000 members make up the Jamaica Baptist Union, the largest and best developed Baptist work in the Caribbean.

The recent celebration combined both international and local participation. Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, brought the morning message while one of Jamaica's own, Burchell Taylor, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Kingston, preached at night.

All of the island's Baptist churches have planned evangelistic crusades, concentrated between September and November and culminating in a rally at the national stadium Nov. 27.

Southern Baptist missionaries worked in Jamaica from 1963-79 as fraternal representatives. Today, relationships between Southern Baptists

and Jamaican Baptists are maintained through the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship which will be hosted during its triennial meeting by Jamaica in August.

In 1842, seven years before the Jamaican Baptist Union was formed, they declared themselves independent of the Baptist Missionary Society of London (with whom they still cooperate) and organized the Jamaica Baptist Missionary Society.

By the end of the century, the society sponsored missionaries to West Africa, Haiti, Cuba, Costa Rica, and Panama. Later missionaries were dispatched to the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Today the society sponsors the Herbin Greens on the island of Grenada in a joint project with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Baptists in Guyana have requested assistance and Jamaican Baptists hope to send a pastor to serve there later this year.

Baptists helped foster the concept of education for Jamaica's masses. Calabar College was established in 1843 primarily for the training of ministers and teachers.



Evangelists elect officers

These are the 1983 officers of the Mississippi Baptist Evangelists' Fellowship. From left are Donald Bozeman, pastor of Southside Church, Jackson, pastor-advisor; S.A. "Sonny" Adkins of New Hebron, secretary-treasurer; Gary M. Bowlin of Brandon, vice president; and Mrs. Myra Loy Hedgepeth of Jackson, president.

Names in the News

Evangelist Pam Bell has relocated from Okolona, Miss., to Ferriday, La. She can be contacted at First Baptist Church in Ferriday, or her home, (318) 757-6598. Her ministry includes teaching, music, and comedy with all ages.



WEST HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, Pontotoc, recently licensed Haskell Gillespie to the ministry of preaching singing. Gillespie has served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher. Recently he was called as interim pastor of Lee Memorial Baptist Church, Pontotoc county. He is the 13th person from West Heights Baptist Church called into the ministry in the last 2½ years. Jack Gregory is pastor.

Edward Collins, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church, Clarke County, was ordained on Sunday, March 20, at 2 p.m. at New Bethel.

Housing problems arise for SBC in Pittsburgh

(Continued from page 1)
any place. One property turned into a retirement home, another was torn down, a third filed for bankruptcy and closed. We have had those problems and have tried to regroup."

Then another factor intruded: the U.S. Open golf tournament at Oakmont Country Club.

The U.S. Open intensified the crunch for rooms. Hedquist said four hotels notified the housing bureau they would not honor the commitments. "At the first of the year, two already assigned hotels—Viking Motor Hotel, 50 rooms, and Ramada Inn North, 50 rooms—said they would not honor the reservations.

Within the last few weeks, two more hotels—Holiday Inn Parkway and Holiday Inn Monroeville—have made adjustments. Holiday Inn Parkway cancelled the reservations, while Holiday Inn Monroeville reassigned their 75 rooms to another hotel "40 miles out of town."

According to housing bureau sources, the Parkway hotel gave 100 rooms to an ABC Sports television crew.

A few additional rooms have been "picked up" at other hotels in the Pittsburgh area, Hedquist said, making about 5,100 hotel rooms available. "We anticipate we will have requests for some 5,500, so we will be about 400 short," he added.

He commented that Pittsburgh has about 8,000 total hotel rooms, significantly fewer than other cities where the convention meets. St. Louis and Kansas City, for instance, have about 14,000 rooms. "There simply is no slack. If a mistake happens, there is nowhere to turn."

Hedquist said some 300 people "have not received confirmation from the hotels," a fact Imperata said was being corrected. He said the majority of those should be receiving notification soon.

Imperata added that if people have questions, they should write to the bureau: SBC Housing Bureau, Room 514, No. 4, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

The convention center official asked people not to telephone either the SBC offices in Nashville or the convention bureau.

Children are about the only thing in a modern home that have to be washed by hand.

Camp Creek will host Fredericks

Wayne and Florence Frederick, who have served in Guadeloupe, French West Indies, since 1970, will return to Mississippi for a furlough Aug. 18. They will be hosted by the Camp Creek Baptist Church of Lee County, north of Tupelo, where he was former pastor.

Frederick is president of the French West Indies Baptist Mission, pastor of the Pointe-a-Pitre Baptist Church, and literature coordinator for the Mission. He has spent much time this term with various building projects using lay volunteers.

The Fredericks will be available for mission conferences and revivals. They may be recently contacted at 201 Lotissement Pointe d'Or, Abymes, Guadeloupe, FWI. Their telephone number is 011-596-20-50-17.

Mrs. Frederick, the former Florence Blush of Edwards, has served as mission secretary and directs the Baptist Women for Guadeloupe. She also teaches piano to nationals. The Fredericks have four daughters.

Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel.—Shakespeare

New church opens behind bars

LOS LUNAS, N.M. (EP)—Members of a new church to join the Unitarian Universalist Association are behind bars. They're inmates at the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility. "They feel it was a vote of confidence on the part of the church and the prison administration," David Paladin said.

About 25 men belong to the church, said the Albuquerque clergyman, who is pastor of the group. Their crimes range from passing bad checks to murder. Their latest project is a crime victims' fund. "There are so many men in prison that would like to make things up, that would like to contribute some form of restitution," he said.

Mount Horeb (Lauderdale): Mar. 27-30; Sunday at 11 a.m.; each night at 7: William F. Evans, State Boulevard Baptist Church, Meridian, preaching; Jerry Sanford, pastor.

Revival Dates

Eastside, Pearl: March 27-Apr. 1; Sonny Adkins, evangelist; Joe Vance, music leader; Howard Benton, pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.

First, Pearl: Apr. 3-8; theme, "New Life in Jesus"; Dan Springfield, Springfield, Mo., evangelist; Sandi Springfield, special music; Jim Lott of Pearl, leading congregational singing; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at noon and 7 p.m.; special time for children each night at 6:30; Stanley B. Barnett, pastor.

Woodhaven Baptist Church, Ocean Springs: March 27-30; services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. night; Terry Long, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Pascagoula, evangelist; Mike Hannaford, music director of Juniper Grove Baptist Church, Pearl River County, director of the music; Curtis I. Miller, pastor.

Calvary, Corinth: Spiritual Awakening Conference; March 25-27; Lewis Drummond, professor of evangelism; Southern Seminary, guest speaker; Wayne Marshall, pastor.

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Leaders focus on internationals

SEATTLE (BP)—More than 200 language missions leaders focused on the implications of America's increasing internationalism at the 26th annual language missions leadership conference in Seattle.

In 1842, seven years before the Jamaican Baptist Union was formed, they declared themselves independent of the Baptist Missionary Society of London (with whom they still cooperate) and organized the Jamaica Baptist Missionary Society.

For the first time, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board-sponsored meeting included participants from the Foreign Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board in acknowledgement of Southern Baptists' need for a global perspective of missions, explained Oscar Romo, HMB language missions director.

Romo also announced the formation of the Language Materials Consortium, a joint venture of the HMB, Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission. Consortium members will work together and seek to enlist other SBC agencies and state conventions in finding ways to provide language materials for SBC ethnic churches, Romo said.

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"Unity of Spirit"

(Continued from page 1)
slots and times for them. There is not a lot of flexibility, but our primary concern was to plan the program well and in such a way as to be able to take care of the business, and then to have some variety and some inspiration."

Features of the program include the presidential address by SBC President James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, who was elected in 1982; the convention sermon by James Pleit, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church of Dallas, and the reports of the Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board.

"One of our deep concerns was that the reports of these two key agencies (FMB and HMB) be presented at the time they are scheduled and not be pushed back by business or other matters. We have given them absolute priority on the nights they are scheduled, so they can be a highlight of the convention," McIver said.

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Thursday, March 24, 1983

Just for the Record



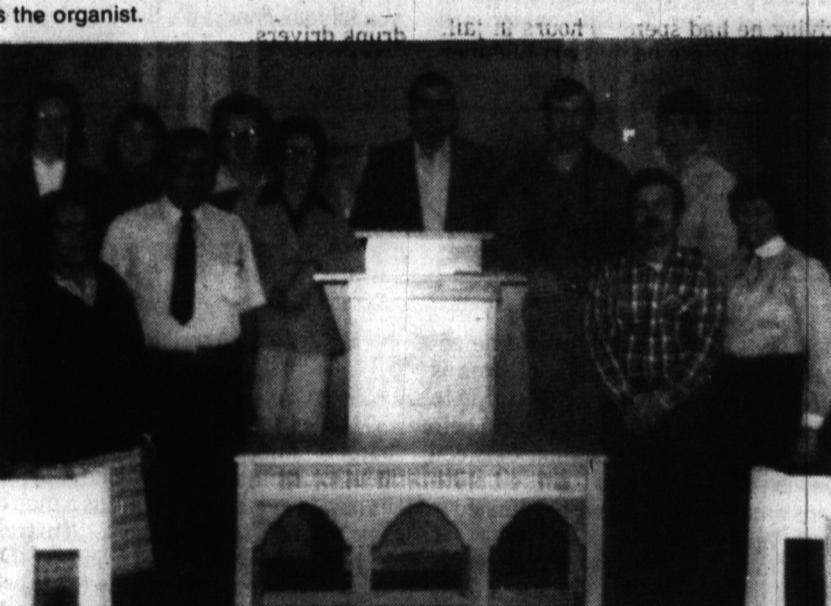
ACTEENS AND GAs of Oakland Baptist Church were honored in a recognition service on the theme, "Take My Moments and My Days." GAs are front row, left to right: Michelle Caulder, Christy Haynes, Amie Donaldson, and Jennifer Campbell. Actees are back row, left to right: Wanda Clolinger, Jimme Lynn Burns, Dana Cook, Angela Eubank, Laura Hames, and not pictured: Stacy Van Canneyt. GA leader is Fae Ross; Actees leaders are Mahaley Hames and Annette Ford. Buford C. Sellers is the pastor.



THE ACTEENS OF BAY VISTA BAPTIST CHURCH, BILOXI, held a recognition service, "His Way, Mine," recently. Actees recognized were, left to right, April Auer, Mrs. Mary Kiser (leader), Lisa Miller, Charlotte Wise, Carla Higgins, and Shelly Mason. A reception was given for the Actees by the WMU. Clyde Little is pastor.



IMMANUEL CHURCH, MAGNOLIA, on Feb. 27 burned a note signifying that the church's new kitchen annex is free of debt. The deacons and the pastor, Davis Berryhill, burned the note, at the close of the morning service. Afterward, the congregation ate lunch in the church dining room. The meal was served by the church hostess, Barbara Sinclair, and the other women of the church. A birthday cake was presented to Berryhill, pastor at Immanuel since 1966. Over 60 were in attendance for the event. Francis Gehring has been the assistant pastor since 1952. Susan Berryhill is the organist.



CENTER GROVE WMU (Oktibbeha) recently gave a new communion table to Mount Zion Indian Baptist Church, in New Choctaw Association, near Carthage. The table was made by Ronnie McMinn, a member of Center Grove Baptist Church. With those who delivered the table to the new church building are Mrs. Clay Gibson and Clay Gibson, interim pastor and wife at Mount Zion. From Center Grove are Ronnie Lewis, Jane Lewis, Jo Parish, Betty Yeatman, Ruth Fulgham, Katie Lou Johnson, Bobby Parish, Center Grove pastor; Ronnie McMinn, and Sheila Johnson. Churches from Oktibbeha Baptist Association helped to construct the Mount Zion building as a volunteer mission project in 1982. (Clay Gibson is pastor of Choctaw Central church.)

Three join "new work" team

Three "retired" men are working part-time with the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, as regional new work specialists.

The north Mississippi new work specialist is Alton Yarbrough. He recently retired as minister of education at First Baptist Church, Grenada, and lives at 749 Choctaw, Grenada, Miss. 38901 (phone 226-7126).

For central Mississippi, the new work specialist is Clarence Cutrell, who before retirement was a consultant with the state Stewardship department. He lives at 422 Lynnwood Lane, Jackson, 39206, (phone 362-5788).

South Mississippi's specialist is Fred Moseley, Route 9, Box 301, Lucedale, Miss. 39452 (phone 947-4886). Moseley, before retiring and moving to Mississippi, was director of the School of Christian Training at New Orleans Seminary.

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

The adult choir and Lighthouse Players of Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton will present David Danner's "Joy Comes In The Morning" on Sun. and Mon., March 27 and 28, at 7 p.m. The program will be sung from memory and the choir will be fully costumed. There will be special lighting and a complete set depicting the events that led up to the crucifixion. Kermit McGregor is pastor and Bill Barnes is minister of music.

John Sherman, chairman of deacons, reports from Woolmarket Baptist Church in Harrison County: "Our church has come alive under the leadership of Donnie Guy, our new pastor. In five weeks we have seen true revival break out among our people.

Centurymen will perform on TV in China this fall

By Greg Warner

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The Centurymen, a choral group sponsored by the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC), will tour the People's Republic of China this fall and perform on Chinese radio and television.

The 100-voice male choir whose music is featured on Sounds of the Centurymen and other RTVC radio programs, was invited to mainland China by Shanghai Television. The group will sing in Shanghai, Beijing (Peking), and Canton. They also plan to sing in Hong Kong.

The Centurymen also will be accompanied by television crews from

NBC and the American Christian Television System. A one-hour television special on the trip is scheduled on NBC in November.

"The Chinese people have extended this invitation as part of their overall cultural exchange program to bring outstanding musicians to China," explained RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen. "They are interested in establishing relationships with the arts communities of this country and other countries."

Although dates for the trip have not been set, Allen said those and other details will be worked out when a survey team from the RTVC goes to China in May.

Hunger gifts are doubled

By Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists gave a record \$5.8 million for world hunger and relief in 1982, but the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board allocated even more—\$8 million—for world relief projects.

The allocations, more than double those for 1981, funded 192 hunger and relief projects in 43 countries. The Foreign Mission Board was able to allocate more than it received because of funds on hand from previous years.

In five years Southern Baptist yearly world relief giving has increased six-fold. Because of the board's commitment to use funds wisely, missionaries had to plan carefully to take advantage of the rapid growth in hunger giving, explained John R. Cheyne, board human needs consultant.

If giving and allocations continue at the pace set in 1982, hunger and relief funds will be gone by the end of 1983. Instead, Cheyne expects the board to maintain a reasonable balance for ongoing programs and emergency needs.

In 1982, the board made a number of emergency allocations for people such as the victims of fighting in Lebanon, the 50,000 Rwandans expelled with little notice from Uganda and people going without food because of a faltering economy in Poland.

But most hunger and relief funds support programs planned by missionaries to offer long-term solutions to the hunger around them and integrated with their other work.

"Perhaps the particular significance of this record is that it is so integrated into the total mission pro-

gram that it has impact far beyond what it could have if it were just a separate relief program," said R. Keith Parks, board president.

Because Southern Baptist relief work relates to the preaching of the gospel, a concern for the whole man, and the starting of churches the program becomes more significant, he said.

The Foreign Mission Board's human needs program differs from that of many relief agencies because it is carried out mostly by missionaries already involved in evangelism, education, medical, or other ministries.

(Welch, a Mississippian, is a news writer for the FMB.)

Marion youths to hear Evans

The associational youth rally for Marion County will be held Sat., March 26, at New Hope Church, Foxworth. Dianne Evans, Miss Mississippi, will be special guest for the evening. The program will begin at 7 p.m., and a fellowship will follow.

Doty Springs plans for Easter sunrise

Doty Springs Baptist Church, Attala County, will hold its first special Easter sunrise service, Sunday morning, April 3, at 7 a.m. Joe Hill, pastor, will speak. A church fellowship time will be held after the service.

Bible Book

Paul and Roman believers

By Joe H. Tuten, pastor,

Calvary, Jackson

Romans 15:14 - 16:27

Sunday's lesson concludes our study of the book of Romans, which was written by Paul probably in 57 A.D. after he had been in Corinth about three months. This letter to the Christians in Rome was Paul's deepest and most comprehensive discussion of the Christian faith.

Paul poured his whole intellect and spirit into the letter. The main underlying theme of the entire book is love (*agape*), God's love and the Christian's love. We have missed the main message of the book if we have failed to see this. Love is the point of reference in all that Paul has brilliantly expounded and powerfully debated in Romans. Paul closed his letter with several brief messages of a somewhat personal nature, and then finally, with a great prayer of praise. These messages and this prayer compose our study this week.

Paul's authority for writing to the Romans (Romans 15:14-21). In the passages for last Sunday's lesson Paul had come down rather hard on the Gentile members in the church at Rome as the stronger Christians. He had told them in no uncertain terms to stop judging (Romans 14:13) the Jewish members because of their conscientious scruples about eating meat and the question about what day was to be observed as a day of worship. In pleasant and complimentary terms (Romans 15:14), Paul explained that he had spoken boldly to them because, by the grace of God, he had been made a "minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles" (Romans 15:15-16).

This God-given call and his faithfulness to that call, affirmed by God in the power of the spirit (Romans 15:19), provided the authority for him to write as boldly as he had and lay heavy challenges upon them. It was for their sake, that "the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:16).

Paul's plan to visit Rome (Romans 15:22-33). The deep love of Paul is revealed in this passage as well as his strategy for further spreading the Gospel. First, he would go to Jerusalem to present to the poor Jewish Christians there a brotherly love offering from Gentile Christians in Macedonia, Achaea, and other areas (Romans 15:26-28).

He asked the church at Rome to pray for him as he went to Jerusalem: (1) that he would be delivered from the unbelievers there who hated him

fiercely and (2) that he would be accepted by the believers (Romans 15:31). Then, after the trip to Jerusalem, which he hoped would help heal the growing alienation between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians almost everywhere, he planned to go to Spain.

He intended to stop by Rome on his way to Spain. He would only stop by Rome because Christianity had been in Rome at least a quarter of a century, and Paul did not build upon another's foundation. His intention was to go to Spain because Spain was home to some of the outstanding thinkers and leaders of the whole empire. It was Paul's strategy to plant the Gospel in that most western part of Europe and among people who were producing men who could shape the world.

Greetings to friends in Rome (Romans 16:1-16). There is some lively discussion going on presently about whether "it is scriptural" to ordain women as deaconesses. Paul said, "I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant (*diakonon*) of the church which is at Cenchrea" (Romans 16:1). This is followed by 21 salutes, not a 21-gun salute, but 21 salutes and greetings to fellow Christians. Notice that the first one mentioned is a woman.

A warning against false teachers (Romans 16:17-20). Paul abruptly ended his personal greetings and suddenly burst forth with a strong warning. Paul later returned to the pattern of Christian greeting by extending greetings from his co-workers (Romans 16:21-24). Why this sudden warning? Many scholars believe Paul was warning against the Gnostic heresy. This was far more serious than Jewish scruples about meat and days of worship. This heresy threatened the very foundation and life stream of Christianity. It caused divisions. It was deceptive. It appealed to base human pride through intellectual elitism. All that Gnosticism embraced was totally foreign and alien to the Christian Gospel.

Greetings from Paul's helpers (Romans 16:21-24). Christian greetings of love and fellowship were extended from eight of Paul's helpers. The diversity of their service can be observed.

A concluding prayer of praise (Romans 16:25-27). Paul concluded his letter with a great doxology. This doxology gathers up several of the most prominent biblical truths about God. It begins with reference to God's power and ends with reference to God's glory. It embraces historical perspec-

Thursday, March 24, 1983

Staff Changes

James Doyle, pastor of Robinson Street Baptist Church, Jackson, has accepted a call to Midlane Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky. March 13 was his last Sunday at Robinson St.

Jimmy A. Smith has accepted the call to become pastor of the Parkway Baptist Church, Kosciusko. He is a native of Booneville, Miss., and a graduate of Northeast Mississippi Junior College and Mississippi State University. Also he has a M.Div. degree from Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Smith, Ark.

Buryl Red, director of the Centurymen, will compose a special musical piece combining western choral style with traditional Chinese instrumental accompaniment. The work will be premiered on the China trip.

The Centurymen were formed by the Radio and Television Commission in 1969. The members are all ministers of music at Southern Baptist churches and represent more than 30 states. The group has recorded nine albums and is heard weekly on 538 radio stations in the United States. They have appeared on previous NBC specials in 1969 and 1972. Members will pay their own way on the trip which will cost about \$3,000.

(Warner writes for the RTVC.)

David Sartin has assumed duties as director of activities and education at First Baptist Church, Wiggins. Sartin, who recently received the Master of Divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary, is a native of Marks and a graduate of Delta State University. He and his wife, Lisa, were welcomed to First Baptist Church with a reception and "pounding" by the congregation.

Donald Dunahue has resigned as pastor of Midway Baptist Church, Vardaman, to become pastor of North Ripley Baptist Church, Ripley. Dunahue was at Midway for six years. He attended Blue Mountain College.

Denson "Denny" Deavers, pastor of Sauls Valley Baptist Church, Monticello, has resigned to accept the pastorate of Portway Baptist Church, Brownsville, Tex. He is a native of Mississippi, a graduate of Sunnyside High School, and a graduate of William Carey College. He was ordained into the ministry of the Topeka Baptist Church, Lawrence County, and has served Sauls Valley since 1980.

Deavers

Paula Williamson has resigned the position of minister of youth and education at First Baptist Church, Okolona, to accept the position of minister of education at First Baptist Church, Ferriday, La.

Stewart Church, Montgomery County, has a new pastor, Benny Hill. The church welcomed him and his family with an old-fashioned pounding.

Ernest Hathcock is the new pastor at Mulberry Church, Montgomery County.

Moak's Creek Baptist Church, Lincoln County, has called Joseph Wayne McNeil as pastor. McNeil, a native of South Carolina, expects to be graduated from New Orleans Seminary in May, 1983.

WMU promotes three staffers

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Three women have been named to top management posts in a staff reorganization of Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention. Catherine B. Allen, Bobbie Sorrell, and June Whitlow, all on the WMU national staff, will become associate executive directors.

Allen will supervise the mission services system which includes product procurement and delivery, personnel, internal operations, and financial operations.

Sorrell will be in charge of the missions education system. It includes curriculum planning, publications, program interpretation, and WMU language work.

Whitlow will supervise the office of missions coordination which includes coordination with other SBC agencies and state WMUs, as well as public relations and the WMU library services.

Weatherford also announced the national Executive Board has approved nine new staff positions.

Revival Results

Hebron Church, Grenada: March 11-13; Tim Horton, preaching; Sunday morning, one profession of faith; baptismal service Sunday night, followed by a fellowship supper. Youth of the church conducted all church services Mar. 20, at the conclusion of youth week.

Uniform

Sharing the good news

By John G. Armistead, pastor,

Calvary, Tupelo

Acts 8:25-38

Most of us have on occasion found ourselves needing directions to a particular destination. Someone may tell us how to get there or draw us a map or say, "Let me take you there." This last is best of all. We feel comfortable knowing that one who knows the way is serving as our guide and we shall reach our destination.

God's destination for everyone is his grace and all the benefits — forgiveness, cleansing, new life, transformation, meaning and purpose — which come with it. This grace is found when he himself in Christ is found. God's method has always been that one who knows Christ should guide another who needs to know Christ to him. This passage offers insights concerning how we can guide others to Christ more effectively.

Seven men had been set apart by the church at Jerusalem to see that everyone's needs were met. Luke writes of the subsequent careers of two of these, Stephen and Philip.

Stephen's preaching (Acts 6:8-7:60) brought immediate reaction from the Jews. He was stoned to death and persecuted against the church began immediately. Many believers fled Jerusalem (8:14). Philip was one of these. He went to Samaria and preached the gospel. Many Samaritans responded at once and knew the joy Christ brings (8:5-8).

After returning to Jerusalem, Philip was led by God to the highway going from Jerusalem to Gaza. Here he was to be used by God as a guide to direct a certain man to Christ.

I. To be effective we must be obedient to the leadership of the Holy Spirit (8:26-29).

Philip did not know exactly what he was to do when he left Jerusalem, yet he obeyed God's leadership. When he saw the Ethiopian the Spirit urged him to approach the man. Again he obeyed.

Notice the role of the Holy Spirit in evangelism. He had prepared the heart of the Ethiopian (he was reading a passage of scripture concerning the

death of Christ), and he led Philip, a believer, to the searching man.

II. To be effective we must be willing to cross barriers (8:27).

There were barriers between the Jewish Christian Philip and this man. The man was an Ethiopian, an African. He was of a different race, culture and nationality. Later, Peter (ch. 10) would have great difficulty crossing the barrier that separated Gentile and Jew. Furthermore, this man was a eunuch. The Greek word here translated means "one emasculated." As an official in the court of the Queen Mother ("Candace" is her title) the man had been subjected to a surgery which would forever bar him from Judaism. Although he was a God-fearer, one grown weary of paganism and an admirer of Judaism, he was prohibited from every being fully accepted. He is hindered by the Law (Deut. 23:1).

Yet Philip does not hesitate to cross these barriers. Race, culture, nationality, class, and economic walls must be hurled over to share Christ's gospel.

III. To be effective, we must begin where a person is (8:28-34).

The man was reading aloud from Isaiah 53, a poem of the Suffering Servant. Philip was sensitive to what the man was thinking about and seized the opportunity to share Christ with him. One must be sensitive to where a person is, where his interests lie, where the hurt is, what the question is. Then, from that point, one can be a guide, leading another to Christ.

IV. To be effective we must preach Jesus (8:35-38).

The word translated "preached" is the verb form of the noun "gospel" (good news). Philip "good-news-ed" him. Undoubtedly he explained the purpose of Christ's death on the cross, the resurrection and the response of faith. He must have stressed the need for baptism as an outward sign of what had happened in a person's heart.

The believing Ethiopian exclaimed, "What hinders me from being baptized?" (v. 36). He was hindered from becoming one of God's people under the Old Covenant but not the New. While verse 37 is not in the most ancient manuscripts of the New Testament, it is certainly understood that this one had faith in Christ and Philip baptized him accordingly.

The Ethiopian went on his way rejoicing (v. 39). Philip continued sharing the good news up the coast line of the Mediterranean Sea until he reached Caesarea (v. 40). There he settled down and served as Paul's host 20 years later (Acts 21:8).

Life and Work

Fellowship of suffering

By Beverly V. Tinnin, pastor

First, Meridian

Matt. 5:10-12; 10:16-13

For some people life appears to be a "bowl of cherries." They have sufficient income, escape personal suffering and sorrows, and have not been disappointed by people. It seems for a long, long time for them all is well in the world, but ultimately troubles will come.

Other people appear to have their share or more of trouble all along. Today's lesson deals with how troubles may be faced and used creatively. Jesus suffered as a result of his way of living and working. We live in a radically different setting and, at least on the surface, seem to be immune to the kind of hostility and pressures he faced. How can Jesus' teachings on this subject apply to our lives?

Pressures of his secular world (Vv. 5:10-12)

Charlie Brown, the popular comic strip character, frequently offers the reader a pearl by beginning with "Happiness is . . ." and describes a pleasurable experience or happening. The beatitudes might be translated "Happiness is" instead of "Blessed are." It seems opposite to follow a picture of happiness with one's being mistreated for his commitment to Christ but this is the promise Jesus makes.

In an earlier lesson this greater consideration was given to rewards resulting from certain actions. It was pointed out that not only in the hereafter is God's pleasure experienced but also in the midst of life's vicissitudes. As the kingdom has implications for our lives both present and future so do these rewards. God is near and experienced far more perfectly. Priorities assume their rightful place as a result.

Opposition from political leaders (Vv. 10:16-20)

Jesus is giving instruction to his apostles as he sends them out on a mission tour in Galilee. "Apostle" means one sent forth. He sent them to do the things that he did and to tell the people what he had been saying. This would result in a collision with the entrenched religious leaders of the day.

He compares the treatment his apostles would receive to that which occurs when wolves are in the sheepfold. The predatory animals with their mouths dripping blood were no more dangerous than the leaders who felt threatened by the ministry of Christ's disciples.

The lesser courts called councils would rule against them and have them scourged. Governors and even the king in some instances would

enter into the picture. This could well result in their martyrdom.

His apostles were to stay the course knowing that the Spirit of God would be present giving them the words to speak and meeting